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Five New Species of Phalangodidae from California (Opiliones)

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A winter reconnaissance of various habitats in northern and central California revealed several undescribed phalangodids of unusually small size. The results of this study are further indication that these arachnids are worthy of continued research. They are predictably located and are often the major if not the sole occupant of their restrictive undersurface habitat. Several important populations are now being threatened by suburban development.

Application of the limited characters for generic classification used by Goodnight and Goodnight (1953) in their study of the Mexican Phalangodidae indicated that this collection belonged in genus Sitalcina Banks although some of these new species have an unusually small number of tarsal segments on the second pair of legs. All specimens of Sitalcina examined by the authors possessed the calcaneus and astragulus divisions of the femora and metatarsi on all legs. These divisions were described as absent from the metatarsi of the species of Sitalcina reported by Goodnight and Goodnight (1942).

The characters of *Sitalcina* are revised as follows to accommodate the broadened generic characters of 1953 (op. cit.):

SITALCINA Banks, 1911

Sitalces (part) Banks, 1893. Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 20: 15.

Metapachylus Banks, 1909. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 61: 230.

Sitalcina Banks, 1911. Pomona Jour. Ent., 3: 412–421.

Goodnight and Goodnight, 1942. Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 1188, p. 8.

Paramitraceras (part) Roewer, 1912. Arch. Naturg., 77A: 155.

Pachylicus (part) Roewer, 1923. Die Webernechte der Erde, p. 118.

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First tarsus with three segments; distitursus of first leg with two segments, of second with two or three; maxillary lobe of second coxa without a ventral projection; palpus with moderate ventral spination. Eye tubercle on anterior margin of cephalothorax, without spines, smooth or with tubercles. Dorsum with five distinct areas, boundaries parallel to one another; first area without a median line; all dorsal areas and free tergites without median spines. Abdomen uniformly rounded caudad. Metatarsi of legs divided into astragali and calcanea.

Type Species.—Sitalcina californicus (Banks).

KEY TO SPECIES OF SITALCINA

1.	Second tarsus with four or five segments2						
	Second tarsus with three segments sequoia, new species						
2.	Second tarsus with four segments3						
	Second tarsus with five segments5						
3.	Fourth tarsus with four segments4						
	Fourth tarsus with five segments serpentinea, new species						
4.	Width of eye tubercle one-fifth maximum width of abdomen minor, new species						
	Width of eye tubercle one-third maximum width of abdomen						
	tiburona, new species						
5.	Third tarsus with five segments6						
	Third tarsus with four segments kaweahensis, new species						
6.	Eye tubercle in the form of a pointed cone, slanting anteriorly						
	californicus (Banks)						
	Eye tubercle in a different form7						
7.	Eye tubercle in the form of a rounded cone, bearing dorsal teeth						
	cockerelli Goodnight and Goodnight						
	Eye tubercle in the form of a rounded cone, without teeth						
	lobatus Goodnight and Goodnight						
	The following descriptions were based on holotypes and allotypes						
stained with eosin yellow on Canada balsam slides. Paratypes were							
preserved in a solution 8% in acetic acid, 5% in glycerine, 26% in water							
~	and 61% in isopropyl alcohol.						
al	ia or / in isopropyr aiconor.						

Sitalcina minor Briggs and Hom, new species (Figs. 3 and 8, Pl. I)

Female.—Total body length, 1.14 mm. Cephalothorax, 0.33 mm. Width of body at widest portion, 0.77 mm. Width of eye tubercle, 0.14 mm. Length of eye tubercle, 0.08 mm.

	I	\mathbf{II}	\mathbf{III}	${f IV}$	Palpus
Trochanter	$0.11~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.11~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.17~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.17 \; \mathrm{mm}$	$0.13 \mathrm{\ mm}$
Femur	0.39	0.48	0.36	0.54	0.30
Patella	0.19	0.20	0.17	0.20	0.19
Tibia	0.28	0.44	0.34	0.44	0.20
Metatarsus	0.25	0.34	0.39	0.56	
Tarsus	0.27	0.59	0.27	0.34	0.19
Total	$1.49~\mathrm{mm}$	$2.16 \mathrm{\ mm}$	$1.70~\mathrm{mm}$	$2.25~\mathrm{mm}$	$1.01~\mathrm{mm}$

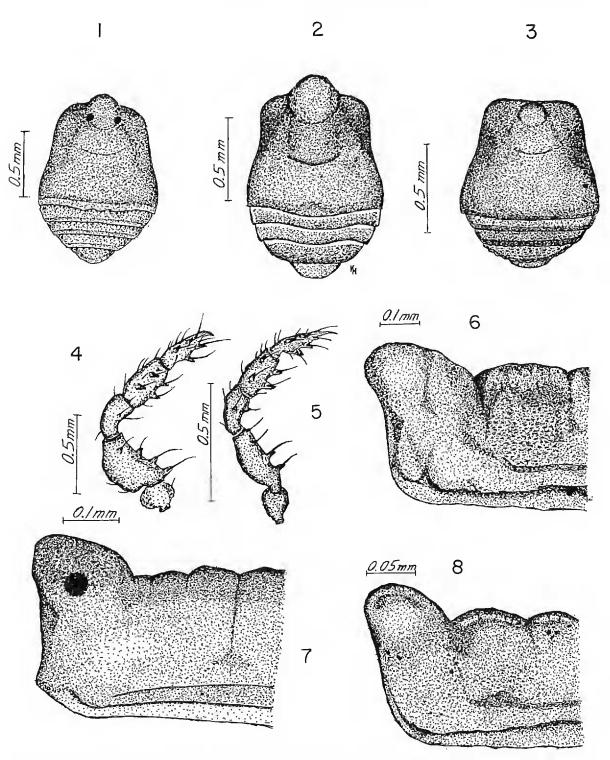


Plate I. Fig. 1, Sitalcina kaweahensis, dorsum; Fig. 2, S. tiburona, dorsum; Fig. 3, S. minor, dorsum; Fig. 4, S. tiburona, ventral view of left palpus; Fig. 5, S. kaweahensis, ventral view of left palpus; Fig. 6, S. tiburona, lateral view of cephalothorax; Fig. 7, S. kaweahensis, lateral view of cephalothorax; Fig. 8, S. minor, lateral view of cephalothorax.

Dorsum finely granulate, without tubercles. Eye tubercle elliptical, broader than long; profile descends rapidly posteriorly. Eyes and corneal lenses absent. Five parallel dorsal areas apparent in lateral view. Anterior margin of fourth coxa and posterior margin of second coxa with prominent tubercles.

Fine granulations on legs terminate abruptly at calcaneus of metatarsus. Tarsal segments: 3-4-4-4. Distitursus of 2nd pair of legs with 3 segments.

Palpus armed as in Fig. 4, Plate I.

Body concolorous yellow-orange with venter and tarsi somewhat lighter than dorsum.

Male almost identical in appearance to female.

Holotype female, allotype male and ten paratypes.—Spring 0.75 mile north of Crystal Springs Dam on County road No. 14, San Mateo County, California, 23 January 1966, K. Hom and T. Briggs. Topotypes collected 19 February 1966. One paratype one mile NW Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County, California, 26 February 1966, K. Hom. Numerous paratypes from marshy slope on west side of Silver Creek Road, 5 miles SE of Tully Road, San Jose, Santa Clara County, California, 27 February 1966, T. Briggs and C. Fox. Several paratypes from marshy slope ½ mile NW Santa Teresa Park, Santa Clara County, California, 27 February 1966. Holotype and allotype deposited in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. Ten paratypes deposited in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

Sitalcina tiburona Briggs and Hom, new species (Figs. 2 and 6, Pl. I)

Female.—Total body length, 1.17 mm. Cephalothorax, 0.49 mm. Width of body at widest portion, 0.82 mm. Width of eye tubercle, 0.28 mm. Length of eye tubercle, 0.25 mm.

	I	II	III	IV	Palpus
Trochanter	$0.16 \; \mathrm{mm}$	$0.13 \mathrm{\ mm}$	$0.16 \mathrm{\ mm}$	0.16 mm	$0.20~\mathrm{mm}$
Femur	0.54	0.60	0.46	0.60	0.40
Patella	0.22	0.24	0.17	0.24	0.22
Tibia	0.34	0.50	0.34	0.50	0.27
Metatarsus	0.34	0.43	0.43	0.62	
Tarsus	0.39	0.65	0.34	0.38	0.27
					•
Total	$1.99 \mathrm{\ mm}$	$2.55~\mathrm{mm}$	$1.90~\mathrm{mm}$	$2.50~\mathrm{mm}$	$1.36 \mathrm{\ mm}$

Dorsum finely granulate, without tubercles. Eye tubercle oval, bluntly pointed anteriorly, about same length as width; profile descends gently posteriorly. Eyes and corneal lenses absent. Five dorsal areas apparent in lateral view.

Fine granulations on legs terminate abruptly at calcaneus of metatarsus. Tarsal segments: 3-4-4-4. Distitursus of 2nd pair of legs with 3 segments.

Palpus armed as in Fig. 4, Plate I.

Body concolorous yellow-orange with venter and tarsi somewhat lighter than dorsum.

Male almost identical in external appearance to female.

Holotype female, allotype male and ten paratypes.—Springs about ½ MILE DUE NORTHEAST OF BEL AIRE SCHOOL, TIBURON, MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, 15 January 1966, T. Briggs and K. Hom. Topotypes col-

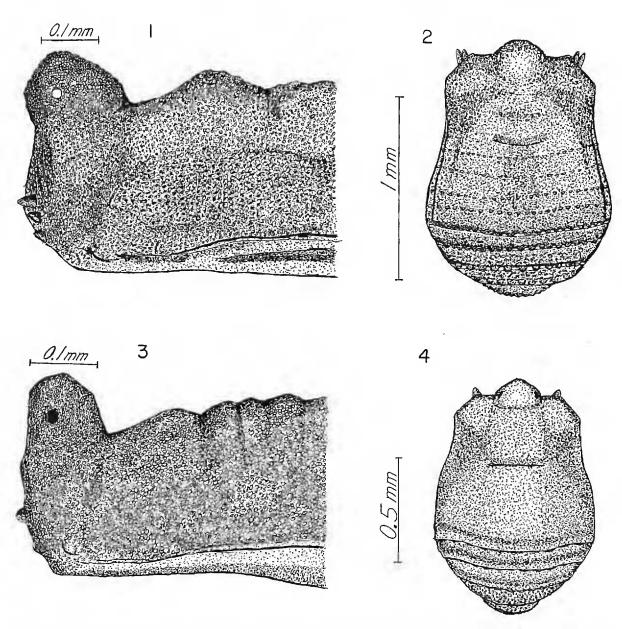


Plate II. Fig. 1, Sitalcina serpentinea, lateral view of cephalothorax; Fig. 2, S. serpentinea, dorsum; Fig. 3, S. sequoia, lateral view of cephalothorax; Fig. 4, S. sequoia, dorsum.

lected 22 January 1966, T. Briggs, K. Hom and A. Jung. Additional paratypes from ½ mile due south of El Campo, Tiburon Peninsula, Marin County, California, 22 January 1966, K. Hom. Holotype and allotype deposited in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. Ten paratypes deposited in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

Sitalcina kaweahensis Briggs and Hom, new species (Figs. 1, 5 and 7, Pl. I)

Total body length, 1.47 mm. Cephalothorax, 0.39 mm. Width of body at widest portion, 0.92 mm. Width of eye tubercle, 0.20 mm. Length of eye tubercle, 0.17 mm.

	I	\mathbf{II}	III	IV	Palpus
Trochanter	$0.09~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.11~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.17~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.16 \mathrm{\ mm}$	$0.10~\mathrm{mm}$
Femur	0.39	0.56	0.34	0.54	0.29
Patella	0.20	0.21	0.17	0.23	0.20
Tibia	0.30	0.47	0.34	0.50	0.21
Metatarsus	0.33	0.44	0.43	0.59	
Tarsus	0.29	0.50	0.30	0.33	0.21
Total	$1.60~\mathrm{mm}$	$2.29 \mathrm{\ mm}$	$1.75 \mathrm{\ mm}$	$2.35 \mathrm{\ mm}$	$1.01~\mathrm{mm}$

Dorsum finely granulate, with parallel rows of small tubercles on dorsal areas. Posterior margins of tergites bear groups of tubercles which give them a slightly lobate appearance. Eye tubercle in the form of a pointed cone with eyes near base. Five dorsal areas present. Posterior margin of second and anterior margin of fourth coxa with small tubercles.

Fine granulations on lcgs terminate abruptly at calcaneus of metatarsus. Tarsal segments: 3-5-4-5. Distitursus of 2nd pair of legs with 3 segments.

Palpus armed as in Fig. 5, Plate I.

Body concolorous yellow-orange with venter and tarsi somewhat lighter than dorsum.

Male almost identical in external appearance to female, but with blunt dorsal spur on palpal tarsus.

Holotype female, allotype male and two paratypes.—Under Granitic Rocks 0.3 mile North Junction of Woodlake—Lemoncove Road on Road to Badger, Tulare County, California, 26 November 1965, T. Briggs and V. Lee. Two topotypes collected 8 April 1966, K. Hom. One specimen 0.3 mile east of Steve Barton Pt., Kaweah Reservoir, Tulare County, California, 26 November 1965, V. Lee. Holotype and allotype deposited in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. Two paratypes deposited in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

Sitalcina sequoia Briggs and Hom, new species (Figs. 3 and 4, Pl. II)

Female.—Total body length, 1.04 mm. Cephalothorax, 0.35 mm. Width of body at widest portion, 0.77 mm. Width of eye tubercle, 0.17 mm. Length of eye tubercle, 0.13 mm.

	I	\mathbf{II}	III	IV	Palpus
Trochanter	$0.09~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.09~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.11~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.11~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.09~\mathrm{mm}$
Femur	0.31	0.41	0.31	0.43	0.21
Patella	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.17	0.14
Tibia	0.21	0.36	0.26	0.29	0.17
Metatarsus	0.23	0.33	0.33	0.50	
Tarsus	0.26	0.43	0.16	0.27	0.17
Total	$1.27~\mathrm{mm}$	$1.78 \mathrm{\ mm}$	$1.31 \mathrm{\ mm}$	$1.77~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.78 \mathrm{\ mm}$

Dorsum finely granulate, with parallel rows of small tubercles on dorsal areas. Eye tubercle oval, truncate posteriorly; profile descends rapidly anteriorly; eyes present near base. Five dorsal areas apparent in lateral view. Anterior margin of cephalothorax with two teeth on each side. Posterior margin of second and anterior margin of fourth coxa with tubercles.

Fine granulations on legs terminate abruptly at calcaneus of metatarsus. Tarsal segments: 3-3-4-4. Distitursus of 2nd leg with only 2 segments.

Palpus armed as in Fig. 4, Plate I.

Body concolorous yellow-orange with venter and tarsi somewhat lighter than dorsum.

Male almost identical in external appearance to female.

Holotype female, allotype male and six paratypes.—Under logs 2.3 miles south Piercy, Mendocino County, California, 13 March 1966, K. Hom and T. Briggs. Additional paratypes from Underwood Park, Mendocino County, California, 13 March 1966, K. Hom; 2.4 miles south Garberville, Humboldt County, California, K. Hom and T. Briggs. Holotype and allotype deposited in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. Six paratypes deposited in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

Sitalcina serpentinea Briggs and Hom, new species (Figs. 1 and 2, Pl. II)

Female.—Total body length, 1.37 mm. Cephalothorax, 0.43 mm. Width of body at widest portion, 1.02 mm. Width of eye tubercle, 0.19 mm. Length of eye tubercle, 0.19 mm.

	I	\mathbf{II}	III	IV	Palpus
Trochanter	$0.10~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.13~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.13~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.16 \; \mathrm{mm}$	$0.14~\mathrm{mm}$
Femur	0.27	0.43	0.36	0.66	0.24
Patella	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.17
Tibia	0.33	0.51	0.36	0.54	0.24
Metatarsus	0.37	0.49	0.47	0.61	
Tarsus	0.27	0.57	0.24	0.34	0.17
Total	$1.55~\mathrm{mm}$	$2.34~\mathrm{mm}$	$1.76~\mathrm{mm}$	$2.52~\mathrm{mm}$	$0.96~\mathrm{mm}$

Dorsum with parallel rows of tubercles on dorsal areas, anterior margin of tergites dentate, cephalothorax with tubercular central elevation. Eye tubercle a rounded mound, irregularly tuberculate, corneal lenses present on tubercle but without eyes. Anterior margin of cephalothorax with 3 teeth on each side. Posterior margin of second and anterior margin of fourth coxa with tubercles.

Fine granulations on legs terminate abruptly at calcaneus of metatarsus. Tarsal segments: 3-4-4-5. Distitursus of 2nd leg with 3 segments.

Palpus armed as in Fig. 4, Plate I.

Body concolorous yellow-orange with venter and tarsi somewhat lighter than dorsum.

MALE almost identical in external appearance to female, but usually of smaller size.

Holotype female, allotype male and six paratypes, under serpentine on marshy slope near west side of Silver Creek Road, 5 miles southeast of Tully Road, San Jose, Santa Clara County, California, 27 February 1966, T. Briggs and C. Fox. Two paratypes beneath serpentine boulders on north slope of hill in Santa Teresa Park, Santa Clara County, California, 19 February 1966, K. Hom and A. Jung. Holotype and allotype deposited in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. Four paratypes deposited in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

ECOLOGICAL NOTES

Four of these phalangodids (Sitalcina kaweahensis, S. tiburona, S. minor, and S. serpentinea) were found exclusively under moist rocks in an open hill-grassland habitat. They resembled slow-moving orange mites almost always clinging to the undersurface of the rock. The unique blind species (S. tiburona, S. minor, S. serpentinea) were found under serpentine rocks near permanent springs in regions of serpentine bedrock. These seemed restricted in range to a few San Francisco Bay Area localities. The phalangodids were often found in groups of two or more. A mating pair of Sitalcina minor was observed one mile SW of Santa Teresa Park, Santa Clara County on 27 February 1966. The number of the phalangodids found on the undersurface of rocks diminished at the end of March and was apparently nil at the end of April. A few mixed populations were discovered: Sitalcina cockerelli was found at each locality where Sitalcina sequoia was taken. They were often found together on the undersurface of logs and occasionally under rocks. Sitalcina minor populations were observed under the same rocks as Sitalcina serpentinea at the Silver Creek locality.

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